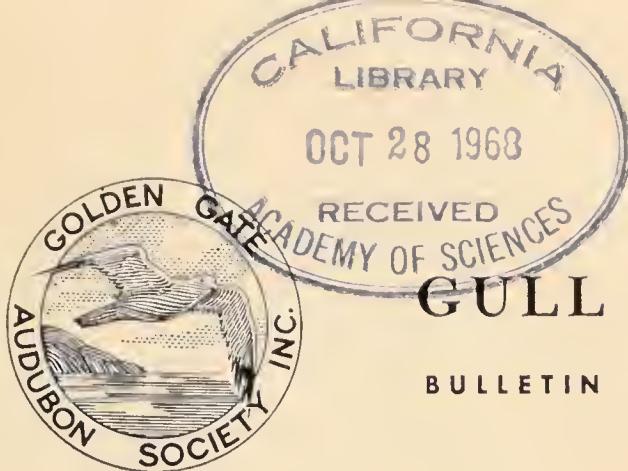


M&O
Serials
QL 671
G84

THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 50

Berkeley, Calif.

November 1968

Number 11



Murre orphan in Berkeley backyard, Sept. 7. —Photo by George Homem

MURRE ORPHAN IN BERKELEY HILLS

A young Murre with oil-soaked feathers was rescued from the east shore of San Francisco Bay by Jim Rasmussen and his son Chris on September 1st. They carried the bedraggled bird to their backyard in the Berkeley hills, where they used butter to clean the oil from his feathers. Mrs. Rasmussen fed small pieces of raw fish to the Murre, who recovered his strength in a few days. He enjoyed swimming pool privileges in the children's plastic pool. Waddling as fast as possible, the friendly orphan followed his "foster parents" around the garden.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Dennis Reinhardt, new executive director of Canyon Ranch will be our speaker at the regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society on **Thursday, November 14**, at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

A no-host dinner will begin at 6:30 at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street, one block from the Natural Seienee Center. Visitors are weleome. —MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 2, (as announced in Oetober *Gull*) Palo Alto Salt Marsh to study waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the duck pond near the Palo Alto Yaeht Harbor. Take Embarcadero Road East off Bayshore Freeway 101. The fauna and flora of this area are described in *Exploring Our Baylands* by Diane Conradson, a \$2 paperback published by the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, 725 University Ave., Palo Alto, 94301. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575, Palo Alto. Bring lunch.

Saturday, November 16, a morning trip to Lake Merritt, Oakland, for beginners. Meet **9 a.m.** at the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lake-side Park, at Bellevue and Perkins. Leader, Paul Covel, Oakland Park Naturalist.

Suggested areas to visit in November and throughout the winter:

National Wildlife Refuges near Willows and Gridley to observe ducks, geese and swans. Cheeklists are available at these refuges. The Sacramento Wildlife Refuge is 7 miles south of Willows and covers 10,800 acres. In winter this refuge attracts a large part of the Pacific Flyway waterfowl population. Motel reservations in Willows should be made in advanee during the hunting season.

Save **Saturday, December 7**, for a field trip to Bodega Bay.

Observers and recorders are needed for the forthcoming Christmas counts: **Tomales Bay on December 28**, **Drake's Bay on December 29**, and **Oakland on January 1**. If you can help with any of these Christmas censuses please write Raymond Higgs, 3501 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94123. —MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

NATIVE PLANT SALE — NOVEMBER 9

Native plants for your garden or for gifts may be purchased from the California Native Plant Society on **Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.** in the Brazilian Room, Tilden Park, overlooking the Eastbay Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Do you need ferns? Cacti and succulents? Conifers? Flowering shrubs? Shade-loving plants? Drought-resistant species? Deciduous trees or shrubs for autumn color? Rare bulbs? Alpines? Seeds? Bonsai? No nursery has such a variety of native plants available; this annual sale is a fine opportunity to buy California plants at low prices from a non-profit organization. Income from this sale helps the California Native Plant Society in its conservation work. For further information phone Mrs. August Frugé, 526-9771, or Mrs. Scott Fleming, 848-3455.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

This column I begin under a cocoanut palm, while Mynahs gurgle overhead and delicate Barred Doves peek around my feet. Two weeks vacationing in our "Pacific Paradise" may have temporarily dimmed my perspective of mainland conservation problems, but we'll return to them long before you read this! Hawaii also has critieal wildlife and open space preservation problems, which we don't yet feel qualified to discuss. We have noted with surprise the number of public state-owned beach parks, spent a day in Volcanic National Park on the isle of Hawaii, and another day in Kauai's State Parks extending from incredible Waimea Canyon and its Tropicbirds up into the summit rain forests where red Iwi swung on passion vine and ohia.

Maui's Kanaha Pond near the Kahului Airport, besides providing a home for Black-necked Stilts and winter stopover for Golden Plover, Turnstones, Shovellers and Pintail, is a rendezous for migrant as well as local Audubonites, we found. But this preeious wildlife oasis has been threatened by "developers", too. Mainland Audubonites who visit and thrill over this refuge and other similar plaees in Hawaii should help their island friends to preserve them! (Perhaps a letter to the Hawaiian Audubon Society or to some public offieial explaining how such a refuge or park attracted you to that particular island or eommunity.)

Another bird pond closer to home — little Crespi Pond near Asilomar — was the subjeet of an S.O.S. from Monterey Peninsula birders late in August. The City of Pacific Grove decided to extend the golf course around the pond, which would involve a concrete wall or culvert. Capt. D.W. Sinclair of the 12th Coast Guard District replied to our inquiry on Sept. 23rd, advising us that the Coast Guard "will do its part to conserve natural resources on Coast Guard property" (which also borders Crespi Pond). We shall try to keep watch on this proposed development.

A shocking, almost incredible bureaucratie edict which merited earlier comment in this column was issued some weeks ago by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads: Remove every tree four inches or more in diameter within 30 feet of a federally financed highway or access road! A very small

number of reckless or unfortunate drivers have driven off these roads and hit trees instead of shrubs or fencees. As eries of horror and protest rose across country this sweeping order was slightly modified. But we shudder to think what highway administrators—and planners—may still inflict upon us. Our President has just been obliged to sign a federal highways bill which he decried for its laek of scenie provisions.

Now baek to the Bay—and the equally abused Delta. The Sierra Club's September *Yodeler* carries a fine summary—"The Deseiated Delta"—of painstaking studies by Peter Zars and Ed Royce, reported by Cieely Christy. Today's press (Oct. 2nd) confirms plans of the State and Federal water authorities to develop a San Joaquin Drain to spill into the Delta at Antioeh, regardless of consequencees to reereation, sanitation and fisheries. *Department of Fish and Game water quality recommendations adopted by these master water-planners in 1965 have been left out of the Peripheral Canal Plans.* Perhaps we should just add it all to the Los Angeles City Limits! of course, San Joaquin farmers will divert water along the way, but their spokesmen insist their agricultural waste waters won't harm anything.

Flash! And it is a brilliant, sunrise-light that will warm and eheer conservationists in the United States, our Canadian neighbors—and even friends abroad. On this eventful October 2nd President Johnson signed into law the 58,000-aere Redwoods National Park bill. Let us thank and eongratulate all who have worked toward this—and be grateful that we can have *redwoods* as well as bombs! We only wish it could have been more. —PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

SOUTH BAY REFUGE GAINS SUPPORT

The eampaign to establish a federal wildlife preserve in the South San Franeiso Bay Area is gaining eongressional support, aeoording to *The Argus* of Fremont-Newark. The San Franeiso Baylands Planning, Conservation and National Wildlife Refuge Committee announeed at a reeent meeting that Congressman Don Edwards, D.-San Jose, is in the process of drafting legislation to provide for the creation of a national preseve.

Arthur Ogilvie, Santa Clara County planner and seeretary for the committee, reeeived a letter from Edwards, who said he will introduce a bill soon in the House of Representatives setting aside a congressional appropriation to establish the reserve. Edwards also has written to Seeretary of the Interior Stewart Udall asking that the California Clapper Rail and the Red-bellied Harvest Mouse—two wildlife speeies whieh inhabit Fremont wetlands and other bay shores—be declared "endangered species." This would open up potential sourees of federal funds to finance purchase of lands for a preserve, according to *The Argus* article. Funds from the federal duck stamps are not enough to purehase the high-pried land and therefore a congressional appropriation is needed.

A gift of remembrance was made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:

Gift of:

Joseph M. Henry Douglas and Frances McCallum
—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

KENT ISLAND SUCCESS STORY

The fund drive to save Kent Island in Bolinas Lagoon was brought to a successful conclusion in October—just 1½ years after it was started, according to its Chairman, Dr. Martin Griffin, Jr. of Kentfield. Three organizations: Audubon Canyon Ranch, The Nature Conservancy, and Marin Conservation League combined forces to raise the total of \$91,626 necessary to pay for the 110-acre island. This amount included principal, interest, legal and title fees. Dr. Griffin emphasized that some \$8,000 in outstanding pledges remain to be collected and this would be handled by Audubon Canyon Ranch.

Of the total raised jointly by the three organizations, \$73, 626 was accounted for by private contributions; a \$15,000 contribution was made by Audubon Canyon Ranch, and a \$3,000 contribution came from Marin Conservation League. The three organizations worked together on the fund drive and each paid for mailings and expenses so that nearly every dollar raised went for land purchase. Dr. Griffin thanks the thousands of contributors in the Bay Area who helped achieve the goal so rapidly. He praises the volunteers who worked on the drive, particularly his committee comprising Miss Erline Hevel of San Francisco, treasurer; Admiral H. Bramston-Cook of Belvedere, Mrs. Rhoda Boyd of Ross, John Hamilton of Bolinas, Mrs. Phillip Kearney of Mill Valley and Mr. Huey Johnson, regional director of The Nature Conservancy.

The purchase of Kent Island by the conservation groups was precipitated by a potentially disastrous plan for intensive commercial development of Kent Island by the Bolinas Harbor District. Biological studies now underway show that the plan would have destroyed the major feeding grounds for wildlife in the lagoon. Shortly after the island was purchased it was gift-deeded to the County of Marin and is now the Kent Island County Park, a wildlife preserve. Marin County Supervisors have been presented with a document showing that the financial obligation of \$85,000 on the island has been paid in full, and that the county will not be left holding the bag as harbor district officials prophesied last year.

The tremendous local and national interest in saving Kent Island indicates that the primary value of Bolinas Lagoon is not commercial development but the preservation of its wildlife, nearly extinct elsewhere in the Bay Area, for human enjoyment. The Audubon Canyon Ranch "heron tree" Sanctuary on Bolinas Lagoon has become one of the most popular natural wildlife attractions on the Pacific Coast with 20,000 visitors this past spring. This indicates the potential for a tourist industry for West Marin if it is not destroyed by over-development of the lagoon, freeways and urbanization.

The three organizations will now concentrate on stopping pollution of the lagoon and a master plan that will preserve vital tidelands and open water with anti-siltation measures and minimal dredging.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

September 8—*Red-eyed Vireo*, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Huntington's Vireo, *Summer Tanager* and Western Tanager at Rodeo Lagoon—Val and Bob DaCosta.

September 10—Two *American Redstarts* and *Black-throated Blue Warbler* at Rodeo Lagoon—Val DaCosta. On the same date a warbler wave met the Golden Gate Audubon field trip in Lincoln Park, Alameda, where an *American Redstart* was foraging with other warblers in a birch tree. At lunch time in Alameda Beach Park by the Bay a *Parasitic Jaeger* chased a Forster's Tern. On the Packrat Trail in Tilden Park, Berkeley, Ruth and Ted Dement found a Hermit Warbler.

September 17—A *Royal Tern* near Dumbarton Bridge—Hans Johansen.

September 20—A Nashville Warbler came to backyard sprinkler in Oakland hills, and on September 23 and 26 a Lincoln's Sparrow was feeding near small pools in Tilden Park Nature Area—Vi Homem.

September 23—A Skua was reported near Inverness Motel, Tomales Bay, by Gerard Brady.

September 24—at Lawson's Landing (Dillon Beach) at high tide Hans Johansen observed eight Knots, two Golden Plovers, Elegant Terns and a flock of *Semipalmated Sandpipers*. (See Pough's illustration and description of this species).

September 26-28—Bill Pursell observed an *Indigo Bunting* at his feeder in San Rafael.

October 5—Hundreds of White Pelicans wheeled in the sky above hundreds of Audubon and Sierra Club hikers in Coyote Hills Regional Park.

From our seagoing correspondent, W. Patrick Dunbar, aboard the U.S.N.S. Perseus in the Pacific: "There has been a very noticeable lack of albatross this voyage. They were very plentiful as we left San Francisco September 18, but rapidly dwindled in numbers until September 22, when I saw the last one so far this voyage. Yesterday morning (Sept. 27), sky overcast, some wind, observed a swift flying about. Against the gray sky it appeared very dark; it had a deeply forked tail. This morning (Sept. 28) about 0700, weather stormy, heavy rain, wind 38 knots—I was clearing the drain in a life boat so the rain water could run out and I discovered the remains of a swift washing back and forth under the floorboards. Also this morning, 0745, nearest land Wake Island about 700 miles to the south, an owl flying fairly close to the water's surface, zoomed up and flopped into a life boat; it brought to mind a Hawk Owl. I dashed below for my movie camera, but it had gone when I returned. Have seen one Storm Petrel and a few Shearwaters. The latter were following a large school of porpoise."

DECLINE IN CLAPPER RAIL POPULATION

From *The Western Tanager* bulletin of the Los Angeles Audubon Society October:

"It's usually more glamorous to observe and report rare birds than it is to make significant quantitative observations. Ralph Maneke took advantage of an extreme high tide at Seal Beach marshes to count the Clapper Rails on September first. There were *thirteen*. This may seem a large number to those of us who treasure every sighting, but, compared with the more than 200 seen by Arnold Small at the same place and under similar tide conditions on January 10, 1959, it is disturbing. The Light-footed Rail (our So. California race of the Clapper Rail) is a resident of the tidal marshes, so that season of count is not a major factor, and we must also realize that these counts are not absolute, but the great divergence in numbers cannot be questioned. The Light-footed Rail is much reduced and is in imminent danger of extinction because of loss of its tidal marsh habitat. I count only eight tidal marshes with habitat favorable for these rails (two of these are scheduled for development and others are marginal because of partial development.) These eight marshes (or six as they may soon be) contrast with more than twenty virgin salicornia marshes a hundred (or even fifty) years ago. The Fish & Wildlife Service is aware of this situation, but is helpless unless the Light-footed Rail is put on the *endangered species* list.—G. SHUMWAY SUFFEL."

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to Golden Gate Audubon Society: From *Berkeley*—Jean Alsworth, Mrs. Carrie Carroll, David Koven; From *Oakland*—Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Blomquist, Sally Malarkey, Joan Parkhurst, Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Richey, Mrs. Katherine Saxman, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Smith, Edward Scholtz; From *San Francisco*—Milton Clark Blake, Jr., D. N. Christensen, Dr. & Mrs. M. W. Debenham, Robert Haberset, E. A. Hatcher, Daniel Kane, Jr., Robert Kovacic, Frank Marx, Virginia Moore, Mrs. M. L. Mueller, Dorothy Oliver, Rexford Palmer, Mrs. Gordon Powell, Dr. & Mrs. C. DuPertuis, William Roten, Iris M. Tory; From *Burlingame*—Mrs. Michael Stickney; From *Castro Valley*—Miss Patricia Ball; From *El Sobrante*—Ivo Rie; From *Kensington*—Mrs. Roberta Ghertner; From *Orinda*—John Post, Mrs. John Sabin; From *Pleasant Hill*—Mrs. Elizabeth Berger; From *Richmond*—Gerrie Kretzman; From *San Leandro*—Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hilton.

From *Angwin*—Mr. P. L. Howe; From *Belvedere*—Mrs. James Elliott; From *Berkeley*—Dr. & Mrs. Robert Fiteh, Judith Hartman, Helen Underwood, Peter R. B. Ward; From *El Cerrito*—Eugenia Hull, Joyee Perry; From *Hayward*—Eugene Mott; From *Oakland*—William Fletcher; From *Piedmont*—Mrs. S. D. Bechtel, Jr.; From *Pleasant Hill*—Douglas Kerr; From *Richmond*—Mrs. Leigh Robinson; From *Salinas*—Mrs. George Watters; From *San Francisco*—Wayne Bryant, Beverly Callahan, George and Nina Dusheck, Dorothee Haken, MD, Samuel Hazard, Helen Ludlow, Josephine Madden, Phillip Miles, Dr. & Mrs. John Rognas, William Staver, Mrs. Ruth Stout.—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN, *Membership Secretary*.



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
P. O. Box 103
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701
Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
BERKELEY, CALIF.
Permit No. 590

DATED MATERIAL

Library, California Academy of
Science
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco 18, California 94118

November

THE GULL

1968

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Mrs. Herbert Boese	6840 Colton Blvd., Oakland 94611	339-8374
Vice President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495
Vice President	Roger H. Coffee	220 Palo Alto Ave., San Francisco 94114	556-4105
Treasurer	Glen Ellwood	4748 - 17th St., San Francisco 94117	681-0651
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jane Dang	1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley 94708	848-0253
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Elizabeth McClave	1097 Green St., San Francisco 94133	776-3068
Director	A. Warren Larson	44 Rincon Rd., Berkeley 94707	525-9149
Director	Miss Bertha Underhill	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley 94708	848-0131
Director	Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.	3212 Jackson St., San Francisco 94118	567-4037
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 94611	655-8886
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco 94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123	673-5310
Program Chairman	Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart	1508A Edith St., Berkeley 94703	526-7295
Education Chairman	Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg	2585 Union, San Francisco 94123	921-9449
Nature Training	Miss Phyllis Lindley	P.O. Box 103, Berkeley 94701	549-1038
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 94610	451-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year. Subscription to THE CYGNET, bulletin for children edited by Mrs. Nickelsburg, \$1 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.